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Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1958

WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
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Medical Officer of Health.
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B.,B.S.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed July,1957.)

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.
All members of the Council sit on all Committees.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health for 1958.

There are minor changes in the arrangement of the statistical section, but the same range of details will be found. Basically the change is made to enable officers of the Ministry to compare one report with another from another area.

The Council are, of course, aware of the continuing high rate of deaths and have taken action to provide additional cemetery space.

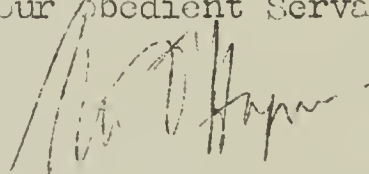
Births, on the other hand, are substantially below the national level, after allowance is made for the unusual age and marital distribution of the population. Few of the births properly attributed to Woodhall Spa actually take place at home - 10 out of 28 in 1958. In view of the absence of either maternal or infant deaths, either at home or in hospital, there is little local evidence that home or hospital is to be preferred.

On the other hand, when large figures are considered, it has been estimated that hospital infections are very much commoner and harder to treat than those arising at home.

The causes of death are predominantly those degenerative processes which begin early in adult life and continue unsuspected until their encroachment on some vital function is noticed. There is an increasing belief that a high standard of nutrition predisposes to certain arterial diseases. Cancer in its various forms accounts for a substantial number of deaths but, it should be noted, only a comparatively short loss of life-expectancy for many of its victims had already reached old age.

Preventive measures against infectious diseases have been satisfactorily maintained, except for those respiratory infections, such as influenza and the streptococcal infections which produce only a poor immunity and spread rapidly among school children and their families.

I remain, Sirs,
Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population:	2170
Density of Population:	1.168
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:	629
Rateable Value of Urban District:	£23,054
Sum Represented by Penny Rate:	£91. 0. 0.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

		1958.
Legitimate	Male	16
	Female	11
		<u>27</u>
Illegitimate	Male	0
	Female	1
		<u>1</u>

Live Birth rate per 1000 population (Crude)	12.9
(Standardized)	13.3

Live birth rate, England and Wales	16.4
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<u>Still Births</u>	1
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Still births per 1000 live and still births	39.4
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Total Live and Still births	29
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Infant deaths	Nil
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Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births-total	Nil
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" " " " " " " -legitimate	Nil
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" " " " " " " -illegitimate	Nil
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Neo-natal (first 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1000 live births	Nil
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Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.4%
--	------

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
--------------------------------------	-----

Maternal Mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	Nil
--	-----

<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
	Male	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>
	Female	<u>23</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>
	Total	<u>48</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>

Crude death rate per 1000 estimated population 23.9
Standardized death rate per 1000 estimated population 15.9
Death rate, England and Wales per 1000 estimated population 11.7

Age at death

0 - 1. 0	1 - 5. 0	5 - 14. 0	15 - 24. 0	25 - 34. 0	35 - 44. 0	45 - 54. 3	55 - 64. 3
65-74. 8	75 and over. 38.						

Causes of death at ages under 75 years

Cerebral Haemorrhage	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Valvular Heart Disease	2
Broncho Pneumonia	1
Gunshot Wounds	1
Cancer of Rectum	1
" " Pancreas	2
" " Lung	1

The arbitrary upper limit of age has in this instance been set at 75 years in place of the usual 65 years, thereby including a more representative selection of the causes of death before the allotted span.

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's short list.

<u>Short List No.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	0	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	2	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	3	6	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	4	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	3	1	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2
20.	Other heart diseases	1	8	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	1	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	1	0	1
35.	Suicide	0	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	0	0	0
		21.	31.	52.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of infectious diseases during the year were as follows:-

	1957.	1958.
Pneumonia Primary	7	3
" Influenzal	3	2
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Erysipelas	1	1
Poliomyelitis	2	0
Measles	14	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	0

Vaccination and Immunization

Priority was given throughout 1958 to vaccinating as many eligible children as supplies of vaccine allowed, and only towards the end of the year, in the interim between the substantial completion of second doses and the start on third doses, was there time to organize an intensive programme to bring up to date diphtheria immunization in schools. During the course of this it was found that a number of children are now reaching school age who were initially protected against diphtheria and whooping cough and in some cases also tetanus, by means of combined vaccine, whilst parents had been issued with forms of consent for diphtheria injections only. In cases where parents were present, no difficulty arose, but in other cases, the lack of written consent deprived the children of the wider protection they should have had.

Within Woodhall Spa, there was a substantial drop in the number of children immunized, compared with the previous years, despite an increase in births. In the absence of other explanation, the preoccupation of doctors with poliomyelitis injections and the confusing effect upon parents of the intense propaganda about polio were the chief causes. Despite this however, it is surprising to find that smallpox vaccination showed an increased demand, especially amongst older persons.

The following table shows the preventive treatments given in Woodhall Spa during 1958:-

	Under 1 year.	1-4.	5-14.	15 or over.	Total.
Smallpox - vaccination	14	2	3	6	25
- revaccination	-	-	3	8	11
Tetanus - Immunization	-	-	-	-	Nil.
Whooping Cough & Tetanus Immunization	-	-	-	-	Nil.
Whooping Cough Immunization	-	1	-	-	1
Diphtheria & Tetanus Immunization	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus Combined (Triple) Immunization	6	-	-	-	6
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunization	1	3	-	-	4
Diphtheria Immunization (above)	-	-	1	-	1
Diphtheria " (booster)	-	-	24	-	24.

This table also gives some idea of the range of materials provided through the County Health Department and the way in which provision is made for parents wishes to over-ride expediency.

It is unfortunate that no individual figures for districts are available regarding poliomyelitis vaccination.

Tuberculosis Prevention

The prevention vaccination of 13 year old children attending local schools continued uneventfully. During the year the use of Danish liquid vaccine was abandoned in favour of British freeze-dried vaccine which can be stored and used when required.

Food Poisoning

Despite the large catering interest, or perhaps because of the large size of the individual hotels, no case of food poisoning has been notified. Obviously, the major hotels would suffer greatly if any imputation were brought against them, and their standards are accordingly high.

National Health Service

No changes in service of either General Practitioners, Hospitals or the County Council have been made.

There is a tendency towards the use of Lincoln rather than Horncastle ophthalmic clinic.

Water Supply

This has remained satisfactory and, naturally, after such a wet summer, adequate. The large reservoir was, at the end of the year filled to capacity.

Sewage Disposal

During the year it was found that the incorporation of humus tankage had caused the fall from the two old filters to become inadequate and for effluent to stand on the filter base to a level that obstructed the inflow of air. Arrangements were made for the replacement of the pipes by open channel to allow freer flow and easier maintenance. In connection with this, it was the opinion of the consulting engineers that the medium in the two small beds was crumbling. Accordingly, the Council will be advised to consider the necessary replacement as it becomes due.

Refuse Collection

This continues as a wekkly service and pressure was brought to bear in one case where despite repeated representations, an open refuse pit was in use adjacent to important catering premises. Dustbins have now been provided.

Disposal continues to be by controlled dry tipping.

The Swimming Pool.

Although at the time of writing, the exceptional summer of 1958 has caused all the Park facilities to work to the utmost limit of their capacity, there was no difficulty in maintaining a reasonable satisfactory condition in the pool.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

No contraventions were noted during the year.

Insofar as unsound food is concerned, this has been a trivial matter and has involved a negligible amount of your Inspectors time.

It would be desirable to make arrangements for period sampling of ice-cream. The principal difficulty has been the necessity of keeping the sample frozen during transit to the public health laboratory at Lincoln. Insulated containers containing solid carbon dioxide might be the answer, but efficient sampling at reasonable cost would call for sampling at all, or most retailers during a morning, followed by a direct journey to the laboratory to ensure there was no deterioration in sample quality between sampling and reaching the laboratory.

No animals are slaughtered in the district and meat inspection therefore revolves upon the surrounding districts.

The amount of other food condemned was even smaller than in previous years, amounting only to 6 lbs. of corned beef and 18 lbs. of wet fish.

Housing

The only new houses built during the year were two for private owners, and the list of applications for Council Houses is practically a dead letter.

Improvement and conversion grants made little progress and it is evident that the perish of financial stringency has reduced the circulating money for the private share of such projects.

The two families, whose overcrowded state has been reported previously, remained unrelieved.

Temporary Dwellings

The existing caravan site was not fully occupied during the year, as the R.A.F. residential station was then below strength. The Council's own site adjacent to Jubilee Park was available for Caravan Club Members and others bringing their own vans to enjoy the amenities of the Spa.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING:

Total number of houses erected during the year:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| (1) by local authority | - |
| (2) by other local authorities | - |
| (3) by other bodies or persons | 2 |

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of houses scheduled for demolition but retained by formal action under Sec. 2,3, 4 or 6. | Nil |
| (ii) number of certificates of disrepair issued | Nil |

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 27. |
| (b) number of inspections made for the purpose | 41. |

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

- | | |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers | 7. |
|---|----|

(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts:-

(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made (individual unfit houses only) | - |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only) | - |
| (c) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, subject to closing Orders | 1 |
| (d) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings | - |
| (e) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders | - |
| (f) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof | - |
| (g) Total number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957 | - |

- | | |
|---|---|
| (h) Total number of dwelling houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of Housing Act, 1957 | - |
| (i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure | 1 |

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- | | |
|---|----|
| (a)(1) number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | - |
| (2) number of persons concerned in such cases | - |
| (b)(1) number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 2 |
| (2) number of families dwelling therein | 2 |
| (3) number of persons dwelling therein | 18 |

Housing Act, 1949

- | | |
|--|---|
| number of houses for which applications for grants have been received | 2 |
| number of houses subject to grant | 2 |
| number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of a grant aid by the Ministry | - |

Moveable dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

- | | |
|---|----|
| number of site licences | 2 |
| number of individual licences | 1 |
| total number of caravans permitted under licences | 13 |
| number of inspections during the year - sites | 7 |
| - dwellings | 3 |
| Number of contraventions remedied | 0 |

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

number in district	2
number of inspections	6
number of contraventions	-
defects remedied	-

Milk Supplies

number of distributors on register	
Sterilized	3
Pasteurised	3
T.T.	3
N/D	-
number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	-
number of inspections of dairy premises	-
contraventions remedied	-

Ice Cream

number of manufacturers on register	2
number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	9
number of inspections of premises made	16
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-
number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- other grades	-

Meat Products

number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
number of inspections made	1
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-

Other food premises

number of inspections made	12
number of contraventions found	3
contraventions remedied	3

Slaughterhouses

number licenced - abattoir type	-
private (individual)	-
number operated by local authority	-

UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in
whole or in part -

Other condemned foods

6 lbs. of Corned Beef
18 lbs. of Wet Fish (Whiting)
Method of disposal - incineration

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

No. of houses with privy vaults in district	1
No. of houses with pail closets in district	7
No. of houses with water closets in district	628
No. of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	-

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

No. of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed etc.	1
No. of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	-

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been
made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements
improved:-

Improvement Works complete on sewers in Stixwould
Road Park View area.

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made
of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements
improved:-

Improvement Works complete on ejectors and on
sludge drying beds, humus tanks and percolating
filters at Sewage Works, Green Lane.

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or
treatment works for public health reasons:-

No.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

No. of houses supplied from public mains - in house	633
- standpipe	4
No. of houses supplied from private sources	0
New sources of supply and location	0
No. of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply or replacement of public supply for public health reasons	No
No. of samples taken for chemical examination	0
No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	
Class I - 16 Class II - 0 Class III - 0	

Swimming Pools

Number of public swimming pools in operation	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1
Number of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination	-
Number of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination - satisfactory	-
- unsatisfactory	-

GENERALOffensive Trades

Number of premises in district	-
--------------------------------	---

Knackers Yards

Number licenced	-
-----------------	---

Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	16
Contraventions remedied	-

Disinfection and disinfection

Rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious diseases other than tuberculosis	7
(b) tuberculosis	-
Number of premises subject to disinfection	2

Refuse Collection and disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	667
Frequency of collection	7 - 9 days
Method of disposal	controlled tipping
Is this satisfactory?	Yes
Is collection by local authority or contract	L.A.

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year	
(1) abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	32
(2) Reported to the Council	
Statutory notice issued	-
" " not issued	-

Details of nuisances abated

	<u>After Informal intimation</u>	<u>After Statutory notice</u>
Refuse	8	-
Foul ditches, ponds & Stagnant water	11	-
Drainage	9	-
Foultry and animals	2	-
Dangerous Premises	-	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	2	-

Rats and Mice Destruction

No. of rodent operatives employed	1 part time
No. of premises treated - dwelling houses	35
- other premises	16
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No

Atmospheric pollution

No. of visits	0
No. of nuisances found	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

PART I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecution
i. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	4	0	0
ii. factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	9	14	0	0
iii. other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	10	18	0	0

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were Found	Number of cases Remedied	Number of cases which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-			
Insufficient	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-
not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the act	2	2	-
TOTAL	2	2	-

